By the King.

A Proclamation for a generall Fast throughout this Realme of England.

THe freſh memory of the late fearefull viſitation of the Plague, as in many other places and parts of this Realme, ſo eſpecially in and about the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, and places adiacent, and the ſpreading thereof in many parts of this Kingdome at this time, ought to moue vs to conſider, that it was, and is the immediate hand of God for the ſinnes of this Land, ſo to viſite and correct his people; And againe, the contemplation of the infinite goodneſſe of God, ſo vnexpectedly to heale this great and populous Citie (the ſeate of this Empire) ought to draw vs to a due and thankefull acknowledgement of ſo great a deliuerance: The remembrance of the ſcarcitie and famine lately threatned vnto vs in all the borders of this Land, ought to humble vs, And the bleſſing of God vpon the fruits of the earth in the time of our greateſt diſtreſſe, ought to ſtirre vp our thankefulneſſe vnto that diuine Maieſty, who was the giuer of theſe bleſſings: The preſent eſtate of his Maieſties Dominions, and of his friends and Allies imbarked in a warre, with a potent and vigilant enemy, ſetting Vs in an open Hoſtilitie abroad, and threatning vs with a powerfull inuaſion at home, ought to perſwade vs, not onely to a timely preparation for all things neceſſary for a defenſiue warre, but alſo to looke vp to Him, whoſe prouidence gouernes, and whoſe power ruleth all things vpon earth: And our former deliuerances in like diſtreſſes, ought to raiſe our thoughts, not to neglect the ordinary meanes, and yet to truſt in him onely who is the Lord of hoſtes, and who alone can deliuer in times of danger: Theſe Pious and Religious conſiderations haue ſo wrought in the Princely heart of the Kings moſt excellent Maieſtie, That he hath not onely had recourſe to that great and Diuine Maieſtie, who is the King of kings, in his priuate deuotions, to implore his mercie and fauour to himſelfe and his people; But according to the example of all good Kings in former ages in the times of common calamities, which equally concerne both Prince and people, to command a ſolemne, a generall, and a publike Faſt throughout all this whole Land, wherein the Whole Kingdome (as one man) may preſent to God their hearty and vnfained thankes for his benefits already receiued, and may powre out their ſupplications with ſtrong cryes vnto him, to ſend a bleſſing vpon our endeauours, and to diuert thoſe puniſhments from vs, which the ſinnes of this Land haue worthily deſerued.

53554

To this purpoſe, His moſt Excellent Maieſtie, (moued therunto, the rather by the good inclination of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, lately aſſembled, Who being the repreſentatiue Body of this Realme, and beſt knowing the neceſſities of them all, did intimate their deſire thereof) hath conſulted with His reuerend Biſhops, and reſolued vpon a graue and religious forme of ſolemnizing thereof, which His Royall Pleaſure he doth hereby publiſh and declare to all His louing Subiects, And doth ſtraitly charge and command, That on Wedneſday next, being the fift day of July, this Faſt be religiouſly and ſolemnly obſerued and celebrated in the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, and places adiacent, wherein His Maieſtie in His Royall Perſon, and with His owne family and Royall houſhold, will giue an example to the reſt of His people. And that on that day moneth, being the ſecond of Auguſt, the like be kept and duly obſerued, throughout the reſt of this whole Realme of England and Dominion of Wales. And for the more orderly ſolemnizing thereof without confuſion, His Maieſtie, by the aduice of His Reuerend Biſhops, hath directed to be Compoſed, Printed, and Publiſhed, the forme of ſuch Prayers and publike Exhortations, as he thinketh fit to be vſed in all Churches and places at theſe publike meetings. And hee hath giuen charge to his Biſhops to diſperſe the ſame throughout His whole Kingdome. All which, His Maieſtie doth expreſly charge and command, ſhall be reuerently and deuoutly performed by all His louing Subiects, as they tender the fauour of Almighty God, and would auoide his iuſt indignation againſt this Land; and vpon paine of ſuch puniſhments, as His Maieſtie can iuſtly inflict vpon all ſuch, as ſhall contemne, or neglect ſo religious a worke.

Giuen at His Maieſties Court at White-Hall, the thirtieth day of Iune, in the ſecond yeere of His Maieſties Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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M D C. XXVI.